

I rise today to pay tribute and honor a very dear friend who might just qualify as one of those angels that serves to minister to his fellow man.

This past week, a former Presiding Commissioner of Cape Girardeau County, Gene Huckstep, completed his successful service on Earth just before reaching his 70th birthday.

Gene Huckstep was widely loved and universally respected, but he was at first appearance not one you would figure to be an angel. Gene was a powerfully-built man who could be as rough as he needed to be. He laughingly told stories about his educational career, which at times bordered on juvenile delinquency. He was sent in the military to shape up.

Then, in a career fueled with brushes with death, by his calculation he used up about 39 lives. In the Army as a tank driver he once was badly burned when the tank caught fire when it was being refueled, and another time when his tank went into water 25 feet deep he barely escaped drowning.

After his service career he returned to his native Cape Girardeau and saw death and destruction first-hand when the May 21, 1949 tornado struck. After taking a baby from the hands of a dying man impaled on a two-by-four, he searched for other survivors and fell into a cellar fracturing three vertebrae and leaving him in a body cast from hip to neck.

His outstanding service to his fellow man began in 1965 when his family-owned body shop bought a gas-powered saw which led law enforcement agencies to begin to call on Gene to rescue victims in serious car accidents.

He faced many life and death situations cutting people out of burning automobiles to save their lives; in some cases losing the battle to flames before he could extricate them.

One time he was trying to retrieve a drowning victim when friends on the bank saw swarms of cottonmouth water moccasins coming toward him. They pulled him out with a grappling hook that saved him from potentially fatal snake bites.

Over his career in 22 years he personally extricated victims from 1,976 serious car accidents. For these victims and their families, Gene Huckstep truly was an angel.

His service to mankind continued well beyond his extrication business. In 1978 he was elected Presiding Commissioner of Cape Girardeau County with strong bipartisan support and led the way on many improvements in the county including a new jail, a veterans home, and many other worthwhile benefits.

In the private sector he led the drive for a new emergency room at St. Francis Hospital, and he served as Chairman of the Board of Cameron Mutual Insurance Company.

His specific charitable contributions are far too many to recount, but it is safe to say he left his community a far better place because he touched so

many things for the good of the community and his fellow man.

As one who was blessed by his friendship as well as his political support, I shall always remember his generosity, his good humor, and his genuine concern for others. Our thoughts and prayers are with his lovely wife Betty, his family, and his many close friends. I shall always treasure his memory and the fact that he was spared from dangerous situations so many times to carry on his work among the people of southeast Missouri.●

TULARE, SOUTH DAKOTA HIGH SCHOOL BAND TRAVELS TO CANADA

● Mr. JOHNSON. Mr. President, I want to take this opportunity today to recognize the Tulare, South Dakota High School concert band for their upcoming trip to Canada. The Tulare band will travel to Winkler, Manitoba, Canada on June 2, 1998 to perform concerts with the Canadian Garden Valley Collegiate School.

I want to express my appreciation to Paul Moen, band director and Karl Redekop, principal from Garden Valley Collegiate School. These two individuals have worked very hard to plan and organize this exciting trip. I also want to thank Tulare's band director, Sam Glantzow, for his countless hours of dedicated work to see that this great learning experience for the band members from Tulare High School is a success.

Mr. President, the band members from both schools will gain valuable knowledge about new cultures and will form international friendships. I am sure this will be an experience everyone will remember for a lifetime.●

RECOGNIZING THE 351st MP COMPANY FOR ITS ROLE IN BOSNIA-HERZOGOVINA

● Mr. MACK. Mr. President, I would like to take a few minutes to welcome home the 351st MP Company who recently returned from Bosnia on April 3, 1998. The President sent our service men and women to Bosnia in an effort to bring peace to the region. I think it is appropriate to recognize the important and extensive contributions of our Reserve Forces without whom this extended mission probably would not have been possible.

The 351st, consisting of 182 personnel, primarily from the City of Ocala, FL, was mobilized on August 19, 1997 and ordered to Bosnia under the command of Captain Keith Holmes. Prior to their departure, the unit underwent extensive training at both Ft. Benning, GA and Ft. Polk, LA, before being sent to Bosnia-Herzegovina. In Bosnia, the unit was split between two base camps, Eagle Base and Bedrock, located in Tuzia valley.

While in Bosnia, the 351st participated in operation Joint Guard. The operation's major focus was to provide

a stable environment for implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace (GFAP). The 351st conducted numerous peacekeeping missions, which included: area presence patrols, weapons storage site inspections, quick Reaction Force duties on Eagle Base, and protective services for numerous senior U.S. Army officers, culminating with the President of the United States during his visit to Bosnia.

In leaving their families and their jobs, the men and women of the 351st have endured personal sacrifice and demonstrated their deep sense of duty to their country. It is only through the recognition and use of reservists as an integral part of our total force structure that the United States has been able to demonstrate its commitment to peace and security in Bosnia. And, through this commitment, the United States has made possible the promise of safety and hope of reconciliation to the people of this troubled region.

In its role, the 351st has served as a shining example of the indispensable role of Reservists in our Armed Forces. Reservists who answered the call of duty when their country asked them to serve have my deepest respect and gratitude. Accordingly, it gives me great pleasure to welcome home the 351st MP Company and thank them for a job well done.●

TRIBUTE TO DOUGLAS C. HOLBROOK

● Mr. LEVIN. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to Douglas C. Holbrook, who will be retiring from his position as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Postal Workers Union in November, 1998. Mr. Holbrook is being recognized for his service to the men and women of the American Postal Workers Union at their 14th Biennial National Convention, which will take place in my home town of Detroit, Michigan, from July 20-24, 1998.

Douglas Holbrook was born and attended high school in Virginia, and moved to Michigan to study labor relations and administration at Wayne State University in Detroit. While in Detroit, Mr. Holbrook began his career with the U.S. Postal Service as a part-time clerk. His abilities were quickly recognized by his fellow employees, and he began his distinguished career in labor relations with the Detroit District Area Local. After serving as Trustee, Editor of the Detroit Postal Worker and Vice President, he was elected President of the District Local in 1966. Mr. Holbrook served in this position until being chosen to fill the unexpired term of his predecessor as Secretary-Treasurer of the American Postal Workers Union.

The American Postal Workers Union is the largest union of postal workers in the world. Under the steady and determined leadership of Mr. Holbrook, APWU has truly been a powerful force for workers rights, fair pay and a safe